

COUNTRY	Hungary	SECURITY INFORMATION	REPORT NO.
TOPIC	Mechanized Rifle Regiment POB 6671 in Aszod and Mechanized Division in Esztergom 25X1A		
EVALUATION			
DATE OF CONT			
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REFERENCES			
PAGES	7	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	1 - one standard manpower questionnaire on ditto
REMARKS			

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General Information.

1. Prior to 9 October 1952, Mecz Rifle Regt POB 6671, which, in October 1950, was given its cover number replacing the designation of "15th Mecz Rifle Regt", which had frequently been used previously by officers, was stationed at Aszod (Q 48/H 83). The regiment was quartered in two old barracks installations, one on the north side of the road to Hatvan (Q 48/J 03), directly west of the field railway to Kartal (Q 48/H 93) and one on the southeast side of the Kartal road. Officers and NCOs said that the regiment was subordinate to the headquarters of a mechanized division in Esztergom (Q 48/Z 27). 1
2. During division maneuvers in the fall of 1951, source learned from soldiers of other units that the engineer battalion, the signal battalion, the SP artillery battalion, the motor transport unit, the medical unit and the tank repair shop of the mechanized division were stationed at Esztergom, the tank regiment at the camp near Esztergom, the reconnaissance battalion at Miskolc (R 49/J 87), the other mechanized regiment at Piliscsaba (Q 48/H 34), one howitzer unit at Retsag (Q 48/H 67) and one artillery or AAA unit at Petervasara (Q 49/J 37). The tank regiment was equipped with improved T-34 tanks, the SP artillery battalion with Model SU-76 SP guns, and the howitzer unit with 122-mm howitzers. The mechanized division in Esztergom was subordinate to the tank army corps located in the former Park Hotel on Baross Square in Budapest. 2

Organization.

3. The Mechanized Rifle Regiment POB 6671 included the regimental headquarters; regimental units such as the signal platoon, the heavy mortar company, the field artillery battery, the AA machine gun company and the gas-defense platoon; and the I, II and III Mecz Bns and the tank battalion. The regimental headquarters and the three mechanized battalions were located in the barracks installation on the road to Hatvan. The regimental units and the tank battalion were quartered in the barracks installation on the road to Kartal. Prior to the fall of 1950, the regiment excluding the III Bn and one tank company was stationed at Retsag. The III Bn and one tank company were stationed at Petervasara.
4. The regimental headquarters, which numbered 27 officers, 22 NCOs and 108 EM, included the regimental command group, the supply groups, the motor transport group and the finance section.

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5. Personnel assigned to the regimental command group also included one regimental commander, one regimental adjutant, one clerk (sergeant), one orderly, one political officer, one propaganda officer, one educational officer, one head-quarters commander, one operation officer, one training officer, one statistics officer, one statistics sergeant, one personnel officer, who also prepared mobilization plans, one regimental signal officer, one regimental artillery commander, one counter-intelligence officer, one sergeant in charge of the classified-material office, one clerk assigned to the classified-material office, one reconnaissance officer, one sports officer, one secretary in charge of card files who held officer's rank, one secretary of the Association of Working Juveniles who also held officer's rank, and one army post officer.
6. The supply group included the supply officer with a supply sergeant; the ration supply depot with one mess director, one clerk, one sergeant in charge of the depot administration, one private functioning as assistant and 10 to 14 cooks; the clothing depot with one clothing director, one clerk, one sergeant in charge of the depot administration, two privates functioning as assistants and six tailors and six shoemakers; the ammunition depot with one munitions officer, one clerk, one sergeant in charge of the depot administration and one private functioning as an assistant; the ordnance depot with four ~~armor-artificer~~ sergeants; and the dispensary with one chief physician, two assistant physicians, three medical sergeants, nine medical corps privates and two clerks. The dispensary had one ambulance.
7. The motor transport group included the motor transport officer, his adjutant and two clerks; the fuel depot with one sergeant in charge of the depot administration and one clerk; the motor vehicle repair shop with one repair director, two maintenance technical sergeants and a varying number of motor vehicle mechanics; and the motor transport platoon of the regiment with one officer and 40 to 50 drivers which was equipped with about 50 motor vehicles. The motor transport officer was responsible for the motor vehicles of the regiment and the drivers training.
8. The finance section was staffed with the officer in charge of the section and one officer and one sergeant.
9. The regimental signal platoon included one officer, who was the platoon leader, and three squads, which operated three radio stations and one telephone central and were equipped with field wire.
10. The heavy mortar company was organized into the company headquarters and three heavy mortar platoons and totaled 6 officers and about 60 NCOs and EM. Each platoon included one platoon leader and three heavy mortar squads. The number of the 120-mm mortars was unidentified.
11. The field artillery battery numbered 50 to 60 men and was equipped with six 76-mm AT guns.
12. The AA machine gun company numbered about 100 men and was equipped with 12 x 12.7-mm AA machine guns.
13. The gas-defense platoon numbered one officer and about 25 men. Missions assigned to the platoon included the protection of the regiment in the event of the application of volatile and ground contaminating chemical agents and the operation of the regimental gas chamber.
14. In the fall of 1951, the reconnaissance company of the regiment, which was equipped with motorcycles, was allegedly detached for training to the reconnaissance battalion in Miskolc.
15. Each of the three mechanized battalions was organized into the battalion headquarters, the signal platoon, the submachine gun platoon, the AT gun platoon, two mechanized rifle companies, one mechanized machine gun company and one mechanized mortar company.

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16. The headquarters of each battalion was staffed with the battalion commander, the deputy battalion commander, the adjutant, the political officer, the counter-intelligence officer, the motor transport officer, the technical service director, one officer functioning as Party secretary, one first sergeant, three clerks and one messenger, and numbered 7 officers, 2 NCOs and 4 EM.
17. The signal platoon of each battalion numbered one officer and about 18 radio and telephone operators.
18. The submachine gun platoon included one officer, who was the platoon leader, one deputy platoon leader and three squads and numbered about 30 men.
19. The AT gun platoon included one platoon leader and two AT gun squads, each equipped with two 57-mm AT guns, and numbered one officer and about 17 men.
20. The rifle company was organized into the company headquarters, three rifle platoons and one heavy machine gun platoon and had an actual strength of about 5 officers, 14 NCOs and 71 EM excluding drivers.
21. The company headquarters was staffed with one company commander, one political officer, one first sergeant, one clerk and two drivers.
22. The rifle platoon included one platoon leader and three rifle squads each numbering one squad leader and 7 EM equipped with one light machine gun.
23. The heavy machine gun platoon included one platoon leader and two heavy machine gun squads each numbering one squad leader and 6 EM equipped with one heavy machine gun.
24. The machine gun company was organized into three platoons each equipped with three heavy machine guns and numbered about 80 men.
25. The mortar company was organized into three platoons each equipped with three 82-mm mortars. 3

Officers' Names.

26. Officers identified in connection with the unit included Major Pal Fueloep, regimental commander, about 40 years old; Major Konecz (fnu), previous regimental commander, about 40 years old; Senior Lieutenant Lajos Meszler, political officer of the regiment, about 27 years old; Major Hargat (fnu), operations officer of the regiment, about 40 years old; Major Palinkas (fnu), regimental staff officer, 32 years old; Major Takacs (fnu), motor transport officer of the regiment, about 45 years old; Captain Sadi (fnu), company commander, about 35 years old; Captain Rosza (fnu), of unidentified assignment, about 30 years old; Captain Csizsek (fnu), regimental adjutant; Captain Nadasti (fnu), commander of the regimental mortar company, 30 years old; Medical Corps Captain Dr Komadi (fnu), regimental physician; Major Supka (fnu), political officer of the division; and Major General Uszta (fnu) commanding general of the tank corps, about 50 years old, who, in 1944, was the leader of a group of partisans and spoke fluent Russian. 4

Ordnance and Equipment.

27. Weapons used by the regiment included small arms and Model M/48 machine guns, Soviet-type egg-shaped and cylindrical hand grenades and old Hungarian-type stick hand grenades.

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28. The weapons of each rifle company included 31 pistols, 37 rifles, 9 light machine guns, 27 submachine guns, 2 heavy machine guns and 9 rifles with telescopic sights. The squad leader and 2 men of each rifle squad were equipped with submachine guns, 3 men with rifles, 1 man with a rifle with a telescopic sight, and the light machine gunner and the driver with pistols. The platoon leader carried a pistol. The platoon leader, the machine gunner and the gun mount carrier of the machine gun platoon were equipped with pistols, while the other men carried rifles. The members of the staff of the company headquarters were equipped with pistols, except for the company clerk, who carried a rifle.
29. Officers said that the tank battalion of the regiment was equipped with Soviet-made improved T-34 tanks. Source saw barrels without muzzle brakes projecting about 3.5 meters from the turrets of the tanks.
30. In the summer of 1952, the regiment was equipped with a new Soviet-made gas mask, consisting of mask body, and linen-made carrier with air filter and connecting hose. The mask body was made of rubber and covered the entire head. The filter had a life of 12 hours.
31. Since the planned motor vehicle equipment, which was scheduled to include one weapons carrier per squad, was not yet available, two trucks per platoon, mainly 3-ton GAZ/51 trucks, were used instead.
32. Clothes received by each man of the unit included one denim summer cap and one Soviet-style winter cap of fabric, two Model M/51 gymnastorkas or one gymnastorka and one denim blouse, two Soviet-style breeches or one pair of breeches and one pair of denim trousers, one pair of boots, one old overcoat with or without sleeve cuffs or one Soviet-cut Model M/52 overcoat. Drivers had a dark-blue protective suit of coarse linen and, in the fall of 1952, received Soviet-styled quilted clothing.
33. In the fall of 1952, all men of the regiment wore blue service color with appropriate arms insignia. The men of the motor transport groups had a hammer-and-vice emblem.

Training.

34. Training in the first 6 months included 6 weeks of basic training, 6 weeks of training at squad level, 6 weeks of training at platoon level and 6 weeks of training at company level; and, in the second 6 months, 8 weeks of exercises at platoon and company level, 8 weeks of exercises at battalion and regimental level and 2 weeks of division maneuvers. Training directives prepared by the regimental operations office for each training period demanded that the company commander draw up and submit to the battalion commander a detailed weekly training program for approval. Except for inspections, no daily training programs were prepared by the platoon and squad leaders who, instead at night, after office hours discussed with the platoon leaders the training to be performed on the following day.
35. The squad leader entered the marks achieved by each man in individual practices in a training diary with printed forms, the rating system of which included marks from 1 to 6, with mark 6 representing the best classification. The platoon leader kept a similar, but more extensive book. The company commander filed a statistical report based on these records on each training period. These statistical reports were processed by the regimental operations office into a diagram specifying the company which had achieved the best training results and was awarded the challenge banner of the regiment.

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36. In the summer of 1951, the daily duty schedule which became effective on the date of the new technical manual on interior duty, guard duty and disciplinary affairs read as follows:

05:00 a.m. reveille	(summer and winter alike)
05:05 to 05:30 a.m.	gymnastics
05:30 to 06:00 a.m.	washing and dressing
06:00 to 06:15 a.m.	roll call by squads
06:15 to 06:30 a.m.	breakfast
06:30 to 06:45 a.m.	preparation of equipment
06:45 to 07:00 a.m.	regimental roll call
07:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m.	outdoor training
01:00 to 01:30 p.m.	care of weapons
01:30 to 02:00 p.m.	lunch
02:00 to 03:25 p.m.	noon break
03:25 to 03:45 p.m.	preparation of equipment
03:45 to 04:00 p.m.	guard mount
04:00 to 05:45 p.m.	duty in barracks and indoctrination
05:45 to 06:00 p.m.	care of weapons and equipment
06:00 p.m.	handing over of duty
06:00 to 08:00 p.m.	educational activities and preparatory discussion on training
08:00 to 10:00 p.m.	supper and off-duty
10:00 p.m.	taps.

From 07:00 to 09:00 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, political indoctrination was held before the troops left their billets. During the winter half-year, the duty schedule on Saturdays was as follows:

07:00 to 08:00 a.m.	press review
08:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m.	maintenance of ordnance and equipment
02:00 to 04:00 p.m.	roll calls
04:00 to 08:00 or 11:00 p.m.	off-duty and leave
11:00 p.m.	taps.

In summer, the troops would also march out on Saturdays, reveille was at 06:00 a.m. and no duty was done during the day, but soldiers were allowed to leave billets not before 02:00 p.m.

37. From 1 May to 5 October 1952, the regiment was in the summer camp near Kesztoelc (Q 48/H 35) and then engaged in a 10-day division maneuver. Source was unable to furnish information on this period as he did not participate in the training at the summer camp and in the division maneuver.
38. During the 1951 and 1952 summer half-years, members of the 1921 to 1928 classes were called successively to exercises to receive short-time training and re-training at a summer camp near Eger (R 48/J 55) for an average period of 2 months. Source gathered this information from instruction personnel of his regiment detached to Eger Camp.

Organization of the Communist Party in the Regiment.

39. Party activities at the regiment were directed by the Party secretary of the regiment, who controlled the Party secretaries of the battalions and the disciplinary secretary of the regiment. Party organizations of individual units were controlled by the Party organization of the next superior headquarters rather than the local Party organization.

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40. The political officers of the regiment, the battalions and the companies worked in addition to, and independently of, the Party secretaries. At company level the political officer organized a network of confidants for the surveillance of platoons and squads. The political officer of the regiment directly controlled the propaganda chief, the educational officer, the educational expert, the studio administrator and the operator of the motion-picture projector.
41. The Party secretary and the political officer ranked with the commanding officer and shared his responsibility for the unit.

Composition of Personnel and Morale.

42. In the summer of 1952, the men serving with the regiment included members of the 1928 class, who were inducted in the fall of 1949 and in May 1950; deferments of the 1925 through 1927 classes, who were promoted to the rank of sergeant and therefore were retained beyond the fall of 1951; the 1929 class which was drafted in the fall of 1950; elements of the 1930 class; the remainders of the 1930 class inducted in the fall of 1951; and the 1931 class. In the fall of 1951, the inductees for the first time were checked for origin and political reliability. Source learned from comrades that, at that time, the first labor battalions were activated from political unreliaables.
43. The morale of the EM serving for 2 years was low as they were aware that others of their class had to do only a training course of 2 months. The morale of the NCOs who were forcibly retained also was low. The number of NCOs and EM who volunteered as officer candidates constantly decreased despite intensive propaganda. While about 10 percent of NCOs and EM had volunteered in 1951, only three men of the whole regiment volunteered in 1952. The officer corps resented that EM inducted in 1950, who were considered reliable and well-indoctrinated by the Party held a political seminary for officers promoted in 1947 and 1948, and made reports on these officers who were but little indoctrinated.

Miscellaneous.

44. The quality of food rations became worse. Complaints on deficiencies and bad quality of rations were frequent occurrences.
45. Each private received a monthly pay of 66 forints, with 50 percent of this amount paid out on the 1st and the 15th day of the month.
46. Annual leave for EMs was 12 days, except for those serving their first year. Besides, NCOs and EM were granted about five days holiday leaves at Christmas or Easter. On the furlough certificate the Hungarian State Railways granted a 75 percent reduction. The men were also given short-time passes authorizing stay outside the 6-km circuit around the barracks installation to which they were usually confined. No reduction of fare was granted on these short-time furlough certificates.
47. Every soldier on active duty held a red identity card signed by the company commander. After the summer of 1951, soldiers leaving the barracks installation were also required to carry an identification tag, which was called bileta and was usually kept by the first sergeant. The tag was a piece of bronze-colored sheet metal, about 5 cm square and 1 mm thick, with a hole for a neck cord in one of its corners. When checked in the city, the soldiers had to produce both identity and identification tags.

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- 25X1A 1. [] Comment. The present report substantiates and supplements previous reports on one regiment, the 15th Mecz Regt, stationed at Aszod. The headquarters of the 7th Mecz Div is stationed at Esztergom.
- 25X1A 2. [] Comment. In view of a previous report the mechanized regiment stationed at Piliscsaba presumably is the 8th Mecz Regt. [] The subordination of the 7th Mecz Div in Esztergom to the army corps headquarters in the former Park Hotel in Budapest is confirmed by the present report. The army corps is believed to be the XI Mecz Corps. 25X1A
- 25X1A 3. [] Comment. The organization of the mechanized regiment given in the present report is patterned after the Soviet model as is indicated, for instance, by the integration of a tank battalion. Variations from the Soviet pattern are presumably predicated upon from the actual state of activation.
- 25X1A 4. [] Comment. Major General Uszta, who is reported to be the commanding general of the tank army corps (XI Mecz Corps), was mentioned in a previous report.
- 25X1A 5. [] Comment. According to the present report, the members of each of the 1928 to 1931 classes were inducted 6 months later than the members of the corresponding classes in the USSR. The induction and assignment to labor battalions of political unreliaables was previously reported.

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